## What is claimed is:

scanning pattern.

1. A signal compressing system, comprising:
coding means for scanning an input signal
according to a plurality of different scanning
patterns to provide coded versions thereof; and
selection means for selecting that one of said
scanning patterns which produces efficient coding
according to a predetermined criterion and outputting
a scanning pattern signal identifying the selected

- 2. A system according to claim 1, wherein the coding means codes the input signal according to a runlength coding regime.
  - 3. A system according to claim 1, further comprising a variable length coder to variable length code the coded signal which is produced by scanning according to the selected scanning pattern.
  - 4. A system according to claim 1, further comprising discrete cosine transformer means to produce said input signal.

5. A system according to claim 4, wherein said transformer means is a motion-compensated interframe adaptive discrete cosine transformer.

6. An image data compressing system comprising:

means for obtaining a difference between the present frame and a preceding motion-compensated frame of an image signal;

means for coding the difference by discrete cosine transform coding and quantizing the discrete cosine transform coded image signal difference and inverse discrete cosine transform coding the dequantized image signal;

means for compensating the motion of the image signal;

means for coding the quantized image signal by variable length coding;

a selector for selecting an appropriate image scanning pattern from at least one of a plurality of image scanning patterns;

a multi-scanner for scanning the quantized image signal by various scanning patterns;

a scanning mode selector for selecting a scanning mode in which a number of bits produced from a start to an end of a data sub-block is minimized, the variable length coder for coding the image signal

output of the scanning mode selector by way of variable length coding; and

a multiplexer for multiplexing and outputting the variable length coded signal and the scanning pattern selecting signal output by the scanning pattern selector.

- 7. A system according to claim 2, further comprising a variable length coder to variable length code the coded signal which is produced by scanning according to the selected scanning pattern.
- 8. A system according to claim 2, further comprising discrete cosine transformer means to produce said input signal.
- 9. A system according to claim 3, further comprising discrete cosine transformer means to produce said input signal.